

# WYCOMBE TAKE SECTION 'B' TITLE

Wycombe Wanderers 3,  
Oxford City 1

WYCOMBE Wanderers clinched Section 'B' of the Premier Midweek Floodlight League, when they comfortably defeated a young Oxford City side 3-1 at Loakes Park on Tuesday night. Two goals by Alan Gane and another by Micky Holifield saw the Blues home.

From the moment Wycombe were placed in that section, it became obvious they would take a lot of stopping and their present record of seven wins in eight games justified that confidence.

With regard to Tuesday, Wanderers could and should have won by five clear goals. The inexperienced Oxford defence was torn apart by Larry Pritchard and the enterprising Alan Gane, but Tony Amos, in particular, had the utmost difficulty putting the ball into the back of the net.

Oxford improved noticeably after the interval and Bill Silto, more than once broke clear of Ian Rundle, while teenager Peter Dallaway looked a good prospect for the future.

On a greasy pitch, which stayed surprisingly firm, Wycombe started with a bang, and should have been two up in the first five minutes. After only three minutes, good work by Rundle left Amos ten yards in front of the goal with only the keeper to beat — but he shot wide.

Then two minutes later, Amos missed an even easier chance from Pritchard's cross. Again he put it the wrong side of a post, and when he received a minor leg injury shortly after, he must have wished he'd never taken the field.

Pritchard had a fine shot cleared off the line by Trevor Stokes — the bulwark of the visitors' defence, before Oxford even entered foreign territory.

When they did, Dallaway shot over after a fine through ball by Tompkins, while John Beasley robbed John Delaney and powered just above the bar.

But Wycombe were not content to allow play in their own half and pushed play upfield again. This time Gane's corner was palmed on to the crossbar by goalkeeper Harris and Williams, coming through from mid-field was just inches wide with a 20 yards shot.

A goal had to come — and it did in the 24th minute. Holifield, refreshed by his recent ski-ing holiday latched on to a loose ball in the penalty area and drove it low past Harris.

Holifield went desperately

close to snatching his second, five minutes later. After Amos's long throw had bemused the Oxford defence, Holifield rocketed a fierce volley against the bar.

After Pritchard and Williams had gone close, Gane added the second in the 40th minute. The ball bobbed about the penalty, following Amos's blocked shot, before the fair haired frontrunner slotted home.

Oxford started briskly after the interval and Peter Spittle was tested by a well placed free-kick from the ever willing Beasley, and then Silto, put through by John Woodley, fired wide.

Referee Mr. B. J. Homewood had to speak to both Amos and Tompkins, following a scuffle in

the Oxford goalmouth, but the general tempo sagged in the second half.

Gane and Langfield both should have put the result out of Oxford's reach after breaking through. But the game was brought to life 11 minutes from time when City scored an unusual goal.

From a free-kick just inside the Wycombe half, Stokes pumped the ball into the goalmouth. Spittle caught it cleanly, but then overbalanced and took the ball with him over the line.

Oxford's hopes of salvaging a draw were shortlived as Wycombe knocked home their third a minute later. Pritchard chipped a pass inside the area. Gane controlled the ball and then placed it past Harris.

Gane had a great chance to snatch his hat-trick in the closing minutes, but by that stage Oxford had resigned themselves to their fourth defeat at Wycombe's hands this season.

M.K.

**WYCOMBE:** P. Spittle; I. Rundle, P. Birdseye, D. Bullock, J. Delaney, R. Williams, B. Langfield (sub. J. Hutchinson 78 mins.), L. Pritchard, A. Amos, A. Gane, M. Holifield.

**OXFORD:** P. Harris; N. Hartigan, A. Inseal, T. Stokes, A. Evans, J. Tompkins, J. Woodley (sub. K. Walton 75 mins.), A. Sinnott, J. Beasley, P. Dallaway, W. Silto.

**REFEREE:** B. J. Homewood.

**Half-time 2-0. Scorers:** Wycombe — Holifield (24 mins.), Gane (40, 80). Oxford — Spittle (o.g. 79).

## PREMIER MIDWEEK FLOODLIGHT LEAGUE SECTION 'B'

	S	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe	8	7	0	1	28	4	16	
Wokingham	9	4	3	2	9	9	12	
Banbury	8	3	2	3	13	20	9	
Marlow	8	2	2	4	12	14	7	
Oxford	6	2	0	4	11	15	5	
Chesham	7	0	3	4	5	16	3	